

SOLAR DECATHLON 2007

Request for Proposals

Amendment No. 1

RFP Issue Date: October 6, 2005

Amendment No. 1 Issued November 16, 2005

Proposal Due date: December 2, 2005 4pm (Mountain time)

This amendment to the Request for Proposals (RFP) is being issued to provide answers to the questions received on or before the October 31, 2005 deadline.

Solar Decathlon 2007 Questions

1. Q. We understand that the houses should represent a potentially marketable product for the housing market. We have heard unofficial reports that the construction cost for the houses in the 2005 event, varied considerably with some being many times higher than current market rates. Would NREL consider imposing either a maximum construction cost on the project or, as a part of the as evaluation process, asking for the construction cost to be part of a life cycle and cost- benefit analysis?

A. NREL will not impose a maximum construction cost, but we will consider (no decision at this time) having the construction cost as part of the life cycle and cost-benefit analysis.

2. Q. Would NREL consider making life cycle assessment (LCA) part of the requirements of the competition? To make energy efficient and sustainable housing, we should be considering the life span and embodied energy of the total resources used. Is this a topic that is of interest in the competition?

A. For the 2007 competition, NREL will not make life cycle assessment part of the requirements of the competition. Please note that this topic is of interest, but is not formally part of the competition.

3. Q. Does the ability for the house to be re-cycled or to have a life or capacity after the competition in 2007 figure in the evaluation of the competition?

A. It is possible that recycle-ability may be considered in subjective evaluations. Contest points are awarded for both subjective (judged) and objective (measured) evaluations. As an aside, NREL is interested in being able to monitor house

performance of select homes after the competition.

4. Q. Is there any limits on the height of the constructed house so long as it stays within the defined solar envelope dimensions?

A. The height limit is 18 feet.

5. Q. As the funding of \$50000 for phase 1 and \$50000 for phase 2 is considerably above the levels for the 2005 Solar, can it be assumed that this level of funding is assured for proposals that are accepted? And if so, please can you define when the funds will be made available in relation to the overall schedule for the competition?

A. It is NREL's intent to award up to 20 Subcontracts with a total funding of \$100,000.00 per subcontract. The funding will be split equally between the two phases. Payments will be tied to the deliverables due under each phase. Please include a proposed payment schedule in your submission with a reasonable amount for each deliverable.

6. Q. With respect to question 5, should item 16 on the price/cost proposal form equate to funding of \$100000 over two years to the completion of the project?

A. Yes, line 16 on the price/cost proposal form should equal \$100,000.00, or less.

7. Q. Please can you identify the date when you will notify competitors that their 'RFP' has been accepted?

A. NREL anticipates announcing the selected teams sometime between January 9th and 13th.

8. Q. Is there a requisite of drawings for phase 1 or can the proposal be our set of ideas for the 10 contests? If yes, to what detail should the drawings be dealt with?

A. To clarify, Phase I is the first 12 months after Subcontract award, and the proposal preparation is not part of Phase I.

9. Q. To what extent can the original proposal be changed after it is selected?(We saw on Virginia Tech's webpage of Decathlon2005 the design being done over a period of months and getting changed pretty much after Nov-Dec 2003).

A. It is not necessary that the original proposed concept remain unchanged after award.

10. Q. Does it have to be a black & white presentation? (the regulations call for copies of it)

A. Proposal copies may be color or black and white. The copies will be used by the reviewers to evaluate the proposal.

11. Q. None of the 10 contests calls for use of Sustainable Building materials. Does it mean if we are able to perform above our contenders with the use of conventional materials, we can totally avoid Sustainable Building Materials?

A. Yes, although the use of sustainable materials may be considered in subjective evaluations. Contest points are awarded for both subjective (judged) and objective) measured) evaluations.

12. Q. How many people would be there in the jury for phase1, and from what fields? Or would it be a public jury as in the previous Decathlon?

A. NREL will make a unilateral decision based on: (a) technical merit and responsiveness of the deliverables under Phase I; and (b) availability of funds.

13.Q. How would (the fix quantity of) water be supplied to the teams? Do we need to carry a container with us when we arrive at Washington?

A. NREL uses a truck to supply water to the teams. Teams are required to provide their own tanks.

14. Q. We'd like more explanation of what is expected under the criterion "Technical Innovation and Design." Our preference is to leave that open to the extent possible so that the student-led design team can have the most flexibility and creative context. Can you elaborate?

A. The discussion in Attachment C, Technical Proposal Format Guide, provides significant latitude in the design concept that is submitted with the proposal.

15. Q. How many schools submitted proposals for the 2005 Decathlon?

A. 24 schools submitted proposals for the 2005 Solar Decathlon.

16. Q. Do you expect the number of proposals to be different this time?

A. It is impossible to accurately predict the number of submissions, but we are hoping to see a larger number of proposals for the 2007 Solar Decathlon.